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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Canceled)

2. (Currently amended) A~~The~~ method of positioning optical fibers of ~~claim 1~~ in a ferrule comprising the steps of:

providing a ferrule comprising at least one capillary extending axially through said ferrule;
inserting at least two optical fibers through said ferrule such that a portion of said fibers extend out of the end of said ferrule;

providing a fiber alignment device comprising at least one fiber capillary;
applying said alignment device to said fibers extending from said ferrule such that said fibers are positioned in said at least one fiber capillary of said device;

applying adhesive to said fibers; and
curing said adhesive,

wherein the fiber alignment device comprises two wafers, each of said wafers comprising grooves which form at least one fiber capillary when the wafers are aligned and wherein the step of applying said alignment device comprises clamping said two wafers onto said fibers extending from said ferrule.

3. (Original) The method of positioning optical fibers of claim 2, wherein said two wafers comprise matching alignment grooves.

4. (Currently amended) The method of positioning optical fibers of claim 3, wherein the tolerance of a dimension of said matching alignment grooves is less than 5 μ m.

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5. (Currently amended) The method of positioning optical fibers of claim 3, wherein the tolerance of a dimension of said matching alignment grooves is less than 1 μm .

6. (Currently amended) The method of positioning optical fibers of claim 3, wherein the tolerance of a dimension of said matching alignment grooves is less than 0.2 μm .

7. (Canceled)

8. (Canceled)

9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently amended) ~~A~~The method of manufacturing a fiber optic subassembly ~~of claim 9, further comprising the step~~ steps of:

providing a ferrule comprising a capillary extending axially through said ferrule;
providing a plurality of optical fibers;
inserting said fibers through said capillary;
applying a first liquid adhesive to said fibers adjacent to said ferrule such that said adhesive is drawn into said capillary; and
applying heat to said adhesive to improve the flow of said adhesive into said capillary.

11. (Currently amended) ~~The A~~ method of manufacturing a fiber optic subassembly ~~of claim 9, further comprising, between the steps of inserting and applying, the step~~ steps of:

providing a ferrule comprising a capillary extending axially through said ferrule;
providing a plurality of optical fibers;
inserting said fibers through said capillary;
applying a small amount of a second adhesive to said fibers outside of said ferrule and curing said second adhesive to block the flow of said first liquid adhesive; and

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applying a first liquid adhesive to said fibers adjacent to said ferrule such that said adhesive is drawn into said capillary.

12. (Currently amended) The method of manufacturing a fiber optic subassembly of claim 9~~13~~, wherein the viscosity of said adhesive is about 3000 cPs.

13. (Currently amended) ~~The A~~ method of manufacturing a fiber optic subassembly of claim 9comprising the steps of:

providing a ferrule comprising a capillary extending axially through said ferrule;

providing a plurality of optical fibers;

inserting said fibers through said capillary; and

applying a first liquid adhesive to said fibers adjacent to said ferrule such that said adhesive is drawn into said capillary, wherein the viscosity of said adhesive is between about 2000 cPs and about 5000 cPs.

14. (Currently amended) A method of assembling a fiber ferrule subassembly comprising the steps of:

providing a ferrule comprising at least one capillary extending axially through said ferrule;

providing a plurality of optical fibers screened for at least ~~one characteristic selected from the group consisting of:~~ core concentricity, ovality, and diameter; and

inserting said plurality of fibers through said at least one capillary.

15. (Currently amended) The method of assembling of claim 14 wherein the tolerance for core concentricity is 1.0 μm , ~~the tolerance for ovality is 0.8 percent, and the tolerance for diameter is 1.0 μm .~~

16. (Currently amended) The method of assembling of claim 15 wherein the tolerance for core concentricity is 0.5 μm , ~~the tolerance for ovality is 0.4 percent, and the tolerance for diameter is 0.5 μm .~~

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17. (Currently amended) The method of assembling of claim 16 wherein the tolerance for core concentricity is 0.1 μm , ~~the tolerance for ovality is 0.12 percent, and the tolerance for diameter is 0.1 μm .~~

18. (Currently amended) A method of assembling a fiber ferrule for an optical assembly comprising the steps of:

providing a fiber ferrule comprising at least one capillary extending axially through said ferrule, and wherein said at least one capillary is selected from the group consisting of ~~a square capillary, a rectangular capillary, a dual-oval capillary, a four-circular capillary, a two-wafer capillary,~~ and a capillary comprising an alignment washer;

providing a plurality of optical fibers;

inserting said fibers through said at least one capillary;

applying adhesive to said fibers; and

curing said adhesive.

19. (Original) The method of assembling of claim 18 wherein a gap between the fibers and the proximate wall of the capillary is less than about 1.5 μm .

20. (Original) The method of assembling of claim 18 wherein a gap between closely adjacent fibers is less than about 1.5 μm .

21. (Original) The method of assembling of claim 20 wherein a gap between closely adjacent fibers is less than about 1.0 μm .

22. (Original) The method of assembling of claim 21 wherein a gap between closely adjacent fibers is less than about 0.5 μm .

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23. (Currently amended) The method of assembling of claim 18 wherein the tolerance for a dimension of the walls of the at least one capillaries are 2.0 μm .

24. (Currently amended) The method of assembling of claim 23 wherein the tolerance for a dimension of the walls of the at least one capillaries are 1.0 μm .

25. (Currently amended) The method of assembling of claim 24 wherein the tolerance for a dimension of the walls of the at least one capillaries are 0.5 μm .

26. (New) A method of assembling a fiber ferrule subassembly comprising the steps of:
providing a ferrule comprising at least one capillary extending axially through said ferrule;
providing a plurality of optical fibers screened for at least ovality; and
inserting said plurality of fibers through said at least one capillary.